Rain's Slower Route

Read how an explanation moves from a problem to a solution.

3.RI.10.a "Read and comprehend grade-appropriate text with increasing challenge in text difficulty and complexity (e.g., layout, text structure, language features, and knowledge demands)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence in paragraph 1 that tells the problem. Circle two details in paragraph 2 that show how the garden works, then number the two weather conditions named in paragraph 3.

What Does a Rain Garden Do?

1. After a hard rain, water races across sidewalks and streets. It cannot soak through pavement, so it becomes **runoff**, water that flows over the ground. In many neighborhoods, drains carry this water toward streams. Along the way, it can pick up bits of dirt, oil, and litter. How can a town slow that rush before the water reaches a stream?

2. One answer is a rain garden, a shallow dip planted with flowers and grasses. A pipe or a gap in the curb guides water into it. The water spreads out instead of racing past. Plant stems slow the flow, and the loose soil lets some water sink down. Roots help keep the soil in place as water moves through the garden.

3. A rain garden is not a magic sponge. During a very heavy storm, extra water may flow out through an overflow path to a drain. Even so, the garden holds back some runoff and gives it time to soak into the soil. On dry days, its flowers can feed visiting bees. The same patch of land can help with rain and support living things.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does paragraph 2 answer the question at the end of paragraph 1?

2. What does **runoff** mean? Which words in paragraph 1 help you know?

3. Why does the writer tell you about bees in the last paragraph?

4. How does the detail about a very heavy storm change what you learn about rain gardens in paragraph 2?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence sign for someone visiting a rain garden. In order, explain where rainwater lands, what happens when it enters the garden, and how this helps a nearby stream.

ANSWER KEY

Rain's Slower Route

GRADE 3 · 3.RI.10.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence in paragraph 1 that tells the problem. Circle two details in paragraph 2 that show how the garden works, then number the two weather conditions named in paragraph 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does paragraph 2 answer the question at the end of paragraph 1?	**It explains that a rain garden slows rushing water with plant stems and lets some water sink into loose soil.**
2	What does **runoff** mean? Which words in paragraph 1 help you know?	**Runoff is water that flows over the ground. The words after runoff give its meaning.**
3	Why does the writer tell you about bees in the last paragraph?	**The bee detail shows that the garden helps living things as well as helping with rainwater.**
4	How does the detail about a very heavy storm change what you learn about rain gardens in paragraph 2?	**It shows that a rain garden slows and holds some water, but extra water may still flow to a drain.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rain falls on sidewalks and streets, where it cannot soak through the pavement. A rain garden catches some of that water, and its plants slow the flow as water sinks into the soil. Less water then rushes toward a stream all at once.

For the marking job, accept any sentence in paragraph 1 that identifies the runoff problem. In paragraph 2, students may circle details about water spreading out, stems slowing it, or soil letting it sink; the numbered conditions are a very heavy storm and dry days.